

Everyday a chemical product that could harm you or a family member is used in your home. By storing, using, and disposing of chemicals safely, you can greatly reduce the risk of injuries caused by chemicals.

Safe Storage of Chemicals

The **storage area** should be:

- Protected from the weather.
- Away from heat sources.
- Constructed with a floor surface that does not absorb moisture (a concrete slab versus a dirt floor).
- Away from water leaks or other sources of water.



The **chemicals** should be:

- Stored according to the directions on the product label.
- Stored away from incompatible products (i.e., corrosive, flammable, reactive and poisonous products should be stored on separate shelves.)
- Stored away from food products.
- Stacked so that they will not fall over.
- Always stored in their original containers with readable labels.

Never store chemicals in food or drink containers!

Environmental Concerns

Dumping unwanted chemicals on the ground, into rivers, streams or storm drains is harmful to our environment and our drinking water. Many of our storm drains flow directly into rivers or streams. Most things that are applied to the ground will end up in our groundwater, streams, rivers and lakes. Considering that we get most of our drinking water from groundwater, proper disposal is a major concern and responsibility.

Safe Use of Chemicals

- Follow the directions on the product label -- more does NOT do a better job!
- Use in a well-ventilated area (outdoors whenever possible or open windows).
- Clothing – wear long sleeves, long pants, shoes (not sandals) – something other than everyday clothing.
 - Wash work clothes separately from every day clothing, then rinse out the washing machine.
 - Line dry – the heat from dryer may release vapors remaining in clothing and cause explosions.
- Use goggles, gloves, masks as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Close the lid on the container as soon as you are done to prevent spills, evaporation and/or a child from getting into the product.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke (or any hand to mouth action) while handling chemicals.
- Consider the weather conditions – don't spray in the wind.
- Do not wear soft contact lenses when working with solvents (they can absorb and trap the solvent next to the eye).
- Do not mix chemicals (when mixed together some products may form a gas that is harmful to the lungs).

Disposal of Unwanted Chemicals

There are three ways to safely get rid of unwanted chemicals:

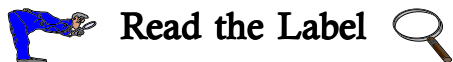
- Use them up. Once a product is used up, triple rinse the container by filling it 1/4 full of water and shake. Use the rinse water as original product. Repeat two more times and then discard the container in the trash.
- Give them to a friend or neighbor who can use them.
- Take them to your local household hazardous waste facility for proper disposal. Household hazardous waste facilities are located at:

Benton County Residents:
Richland Landfill
3102 Twin Bridges Rd
Richland, WA 99352
942-7387



Franklin County Residents:
BDI Transfer Station
1721 Deitrich Road
Pasco, WA 99301
547-2088

Types of products accepted: cleaners/aerosols, antifreeze, used oil, car batteries, paints, pesticides, herbicides and solvents.



Read the Label



The best way to find out if a product is hazardous is to read the label. Manufacturers are required to tell you what kind of hazard the product poses and how to avoid that hazard.

A product is hazardous when it contains one or more of the following properties:

Flammable Able to easily catch on fire or ignite

Corrosive Can burn or destroy living tissues on contact

Explosive/Reactive Can detonate or explode through exposure to heat, sudden shock or pressure

Toxic Capable of causing injury or death through ingestion, inhalation or absorption

Signal words, such as “danger,” “poison,” “warning” and “caution” give you clues as to how hazardous the product can be.

DANGER Extremely flammable, corrosive or highly toxic

POISON Highly toxic

WARNING Moderately hazardous

CAUTION Slightly hazardous

“Warning” or “caution” used on non-pesticide labels, generally mean the same thing.

“Non-toxic” is an advertising word and has not been defined by any regulatory agency.

If more than one hazard exists for a product, the label will indicate the most hazardous signal word.

Another piece of important information listed on the label of hazardous products is instructions for first aid care.

Pesticide labels are required to list what environmental effects can occur if the product is improperly used.

Material Safety Data Sheets

More information on the product contents is available on a “Material Safety Data Sheet” or “MSDS.” An MSDS lists all the ingredients in a product, the manufacturer, hazards to safety and health, precautions to follow when using it and first aid. You can request the MSDS by contacting the manufacturer of the product. Keep in mind that while it is required that a manufacturer provide this information to you, it may take several weeks. You can also obtain the MSDS off the internet at the following sites:

<http://msds.pdc.cornell.edu/msdssrch.asp> or
www.msdsdsonline.com

For more information contact:

Benton-Franklin Health District
Environmental Health Division
800 West Canal
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 582-7761 Ext. 246
Website: www.bfhd.wa.gov

City of Richland, Environmental Education Office
505 Swift Blvd.
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 942-7730
Website: www.ci.richland.wa.us

Washington Poison Control Center
1-800-732-6985

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HOME CHEMICAL USE AND SAFETY

